

REVIEW  
MEHERRIN PETITION  
FEBRUARY 1986

Criteria 1: Traditional North Carolina Indian Names

Five affidavits are included in the petition from local community people attesting to the fact that families with the following names have always been considered Indian and have an Indian culture and ethnic background.

Lewis	Butler	Jordan	Tann
Hall	Reid	Weaver	Lang
Pierce	Jones	Archer	Simmons
James	Melton	Boone	Sessoms
Chavis	Brown	Reynolds	Pope
Keene	Flood	Collins	

Criteria 2: Kinship relationships with other recognized Indian tribes

This criteria is not addressed in the petition.

Criteria 3: Official records such as birth, church, school or other recognizing the people as Indian

The petition contains a superior court judgment ordering that the birth certificates of 107 individuals be corrected to show their racial status as "Indian." The names of 43 of these individuals appear on the Meherrin base tribal roll. (Base tribal roll lists 84 individuals.)

Criteria 4: Letters or statements from state or federal authorities recognizing the people as Indian

Petition includes letters from Representative L. M. (Mutt) Brinkley (6th district) and David H. Beard, District Attorney, Sixth Judicial District. Representative Brinkley states that he is "aware of the existence of this tribe and of their origin." District Attorney Beard states that the "Meherrin Tribe has been noted and active in the community of Hertford County ever since the 1500's."

Criteria 5: Anthropological or historical accounts tied to the tribe's Indian ancestry

There is sufficient historical and anthropological documentation attesting to the existence of the Meherrin Tribe into the 1700's. Xeroxed documentation includes excerpts from the colonial records of North Carolina, William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine and the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. The most concise history of the Meherrin contained within the petition is an article by Lewis R. Binford published in a 1967 edition of Ethnohistory (Vol. 14, Nos. 3-4, pp. 104-218) entitled "An Ethnohistory of the Nottoway, Meherrin and Weanock Indians of Southeastern Virginia." This article traces the Meherrin from the first recorded historical account (1650) to approximately 1730. Moves by the Meherrin traced by this article are consistent with the present day location of the petitioning group.

An unidentified document in the petition lists references made to the Meherrin in the colonial records of North Carolina from 1710 - 1763. Again, these records tend to place the location of the Meherrin in the same general area as the petitioning group. The last entry, "An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina . . . by Henry Mouzon and others" (London, 1776), shows the "Meherrin Indian Town" on the south bank of "Meherrin Creek" now Potecasi Creek near the Northampton and Hertford County border.

A newspaper article entitled, "They Still Live With Us . . . The Meherrins," by F. Roy Johnson printed in 1957 traces the family history of Sallie M. Lewis (1838 - 1904) who was "a full-blooded Indian." The petitioners claim that many of the individuals on their base tribal roll are descended directly from Sallie M. Lewis. To support this claim they have included a "Genealogical Chart" of Sallie Lewis and her descendants. Of the 113 individuals listed on this chart, 77 are listed on the base tribal roll.

Criteria 6: Letters or statements from presently recognized tribes or groups or their representatives attesting to the Indian heritage of the tribe.

A letter was sent by the Haliwa-Saponi to the Meherrin in 1982 endorsing the Meherrin's attempt to achieve state recognition.

Criteria 7: An other documented traditions, customs, legends, etc. that signify the tribe's Indian heritage

Petitioner includes a history of the Pleasant Plains Church established in 1851 and located in Hertford County between Winton and Ahoskie. The church was established, according to the history, for "free born people" and the founders represented a varied racial mix including Indian. Names of the church's founders include several identified by the petitioner (and supported by enclosed affidavits) as being traditionally thought of as Indian.

An unsigned letter to Wes White (dated 10/6/80) reports on a 1960 interview with a Paul Jenkins regarding the Meherrin Indians of Hertford County. Mr. Jenkins was born in 1898 and lived on a homestead near Potecasi Creek in Hertford County. Mr. Jenkins claims that a great aunt (Mary E. Jenkins) born in 1820 would tell him of Meherrin Indian families who lived near her family's home.

Criteria 8: Participation in or grants from sources or programs designated as for Indians only.

The Hertford County Board of Education applied for and received a Title IV - Part A Indian Education grant in 1980. The application proposal for these funds specifically states that the Title IV funds would be utilized to serve Indian students of the Meherrin Tribe.

.0214

Each petitioning tribe or organization must submit to the commission . . . a roll of their members as a condition to recognition.

The petitioner includes a tribal roll which lists 313 individuals and their addresses. Tribal affiliation on this roll is primarily listed as Meherrin, but there are some individuals who have listed their tribal affiliation as Cherokee. Also included in the petition is a "Base Tribal Roll of Members Linking Present Day Meherrins To Colonial Meherrins." This roll lists 84 individuals. As previously stated, 77 of the individuals on this base tribal roll are directly descended from Sallie M. Lewis according to the genealogical chart provided.

.0211

Only tribes tracing back to Indian tribes indigenous to North Carolina at least for the last 200 years will be considered for recognition by the Commission.

The petitioner has supplied sufficient evidence of the existence of the Meherrin Tribe in North Carolina from the beginning of the historic period (circa 1600) to approximately 1776. Less evidence is shown that proves a direct tie between this "historic" group and the petitioner. If the claim that Sallie M. Lewis was actually a Meherrin Indian is accepted by the Recognition Committee, the petitioner has shown evidence that 77 of the 84 individuals listed on their base tribal roll are her direct descendants. A gap therefore occurs between 1776 and 1838 (the birthdate of Sallie M. Lewis).

MINUTES  
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs  
Recognition Committee  
March 13, 1986  
Greensboro, North Carolina

The Recognition Committee of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs met Thursday, March 13, 1986 at the Holiday Inn Four Seasons in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Members Present

W. R. Richardson  
Tom N. Carter  
Clinton Thomas  
Eddie Maynor  
Roscoe Jacobs

Others Present

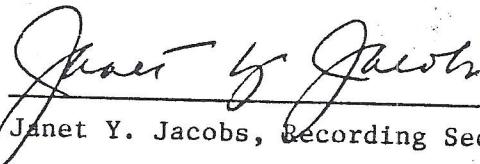
Janet Y. Jacobs  
A. Bruce Jones  
Jerry Berkelhammer  
Masager Richardson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richardson.

Brief discussion of the staff review of the Meherrin and Cherokee of Hoke County petitions ensued. The Cherokee petition was first discussed. Mr. Berkelhammer informed the committee that clarification was needed in regard to S71A-1 - the state statue which recognizes the "persons residing in Robeson, Richmond and Sampson counties" as "Cherokee Indians of Robeson County." Specifically, clarification was needed on how S71A-1 was affected by subsequent statutes 71A-3 through 71A-6. (These statutes recognize the Lumbee, Haliwa, Waccamaw and Coharie.) A motion was made by Eddie Maynor that the commission request a formal opinion from the Attorney General's office on the legal interpretation and ramifications of S71A-1 and the subsequent effect on statutes 71A-3 through 71A-6. The motion was seconded by Tom Carter and carried unanimously.

Ms. Jacobs then reviewed the current status of the Meherrin petition. The committee was reminded that in 1984 the committee had decided that the Meherrin had met four of the eight criteria listed in the state recognition procedures. The four criteria met included 1, 3, 6 and 8. Ms. Jacobs informed the committee that the Meherrin had since forwarded letters from Representative L. M. "Mutt" Brinkley (Sixth District) and David H. Beard, District Attorney, Sixth Judicial District which attested to the Meherrin's existence and their heritage. These letters were submitted to meet criteria 4 of the recognition procedures. Discussion then centered on requirements .0214 and .0211 of the recognition procedures. Requirement .0214, which requires each petitioner to submit a tribal roll, has been met by the Meherrin. Requirement .0211 requires that each petitioning tribe must "trace back to Indian tribes indigenous to North Carolina at least for the last 200 years." Evidence provided by the Meherrin shows the existence of the Meherrin Tribe from approximately 1600 to 1776. A gap exists between 1776, however, and 1838 - the birthdate of Sallie M. Lewis from whom 77 of the 84 persons listed on the Meherrin base tribal roll claim descent. Tom Carter moved that the Meherrin be informed of this finding, that they be requested to supply information to complete this requirement and that they be informed that the commission will assist them in securing funds to conduct further research. The motion was seconded by Eddie Maynor and was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Janet Y. Jacobs, Recording Secretary

April 15, 1986

David E. Wilkins  
P.O. Box 763  
Tsaila, AZ 86556

Ms. Janet Jacobs  
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs  
P.O. Box 27228  
227 E. Edenton St. Room 233  
Raleigh, NC 27611

Dear Janet,

AS you know, I have long held an interest in the efforts of the Meherrin Tribe to receive state recognition. From my days as an archival apprentice at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, to my work with United Indians of America, and even in my work as a College Instructor in the Navajo & Indian Studies Division at Navajo Community College.

It has always been my contention, nay belief, that the Meherrin have the strongest case of any eastern North Carolina tribe to state and ultimately federal recognition should they decide to pursue their case that far. Our discussion last week in which I learned that the Meherrin's only need to meet the criteria in section 5 "Anthropological or historical accounts tied to the tribe's Indian ancestry" led me to conduct a few hours of research while I was Raleigh. The research was conducted at the Archives Room of the Department of Cultural Resources where most of the pertinent documents are kept.

I must, however, preface my remarks by saying that the Meherrin reside in a county (Hertford principally) that experienced a devastating loss of historical records for the period in time they need documentation for. It is referred to as a "burned out" county by archivists who search records. Nevertheless, I was able to secure a few items that I believe cover the historical gap -- 1776 to 1838 -- that the Meherrins needed documentation for. Again, historical evidence is overwhelming for Meherrin presence in their current area from 1650 to 1776, and then again from 1838 forward. Obviously, a tribe cannot disappear and simply reappear. They may not appear regularly in the records, but that does not mean they were not present. If they existed in 1776 and reappear in 1838, we can safely say that they existed in the interim.

The evidence I located came principally from the Census records and wills. First, the Census records. From the list of common Meherrin surnames I located the following people in the Census records for the 1790 and 1820 Census. All of them are listed as "free persons of color", a designation that all eastern Indians faced during this period (Lumbee, Coharie, Haliwa, and Waccamaw)

<u>1790 Census:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number in Family</u>
	Cesar Chavis	
	Cezer Chevat	
	Frederick James	9
	Nancy James	3

<u>1790 Census</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number in Family</u>
William Jones	9	
Frederick James	5	
John James	8	

(All the above were from Bertie County--adjacent to Hertford)

James Weaver	6
James Boon	1
Micajah Reade (Reid)	4

(All the above were from Gates county--adjacent to Hertford)

Arthur Boone	6
Ned Weaver	7
Armstrong Carter	4
Evans Archer	3
William Archer	5
Peggy Archer	2
Jesse Weaver	6
Caleb Archer	5
Shadrick Read	6
Thomas Archer	5
Jacob Archer	8
Mary Hall	6

(All the above were from Hertford County)

Jesse James	9
Jeremiah James	3

(The above from Northampton County)

We may never know exactly what connection these people had to one another since most of the other records were burned. But Meherrin surnames today indicate the strong possibility of a distinctive and continuous relationship.

The second, and equally important bit of evidence I located centers around Sally M. Lewis, considered by many Meherrins to be the matriarch of their tribe. We have record of her from 1838 but until now very little was known about her past. In my research using the Hertford County Wills (See Volumes C,D (1868-1921: C. 051 80002, page 332) I learned that Sally Lewis' father was Jacob Smith. His wife was Elizabeth, and he had three sons and one other daughter-- Silas Smith, Quilly R. Smith, John Smith, and Eliza Ann Kern. His last will and testament was recorded Feb. 21, 1872. This is an important discovery because it pushes the date of Meherrin presence back much further than 1838.

To double check, I looked at the 1850 Federal Census, and found Jacob Smith (Hertford County) listed as a "Mullato" (another designation common to nearly all eastern Indians) whose occupation was "laborer."

Jacob Smith, in 1850, was listed as being 39 years old. Since Jacob was obviously non-white and non-black we can logically assume that he was an Indian. And by subtracting 39 years from 1850 we arrive at a date of 1811. And if Jacob Smith was indeed a Meherrin, as the records would indicate, then he too would have been born to Indian parents, which would push the date back even further. Thus, we can safely deduce that the Meherrins were in fact an Indian tribe, in existence, throughout the period between 1776 and 1838.

As I noted earlier, as a "burned" county, most of the other documents that could provide more substantiating evidence are no longer in existence. This is certainly not the fault of the Meherrin people. And with the evidence already in place, combined with what I have just presented, the picture is much clearer. Unfortunately, it will never be crystal clear.

Nevertheless, in my many years of research I am convinced that the Meherrin tribe warrants immediate recognition by the State of North Carolina. If I can be of further assistance to you, the Meherrin Tribe, or the Committee in charge of acknowledging groups, please feel free to contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,

*David E. Wilkins*

David E. Wilkins  
NIS Instructor  
Tsaiile, AZ

MINUTES  
NCCIA RECOGNITION COMMITTEE  
June 4, 1986  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Members Present

W. R. Richardson  
Eddie Maynor  
Roscoe Jacobs

Members Absent

Clinton Thomas  
Tom N. Carter

Others Present

Jerry Berkelhammer, NCCIA  
Janet Y. Jacobs, NCCIA  
David Steinbock, Attorney General's Office

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richardson at 10:21 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Meherrin Indian Tribe Petition

The committee reviewed information submitted on behalf of the Meherrin Indian Tribe by David Wilkins. This material addressed requirement .0211 of the state recognition procedures which calls for a petitioning tribe to provide proof that they are indigenous to the state for at least the last 200 years. After some discussion, Eddie Maynor moved that the committee recommend to the Commission at its meeting on June 19, 1986 that state recognition be granted to the Meherrin Indian Tribe subject to verification of the information provided by Wilkins by Chairman Richardson and Janet Y. Jacobs of the Commission staff. The motion was seconded by Roscoe Jacobs. Chairman Richardson yielded the chair to Jerry Berkelhammer who called for a roll call vote on the motion. All members present responded "Aye" when asked the question and the motion was carried unanimously. The chair was then returned to Richardson by Berkelhammer.

Cherokee of Hoke County

The committee was informed that the Cherokee of Hoke County had requested a meeting with Governor Martin to discuss their state recognition efforts. Governor Martin, in turn, had requested that Jerry Berkelhammer meet with the Cherokee in his behalf. This meeting has been scheduled for June 6, 1986 at the Commission offices in Raleigh.

Eddie Maynor moved that the Committee postpone any discussion in regard to the Cherokee petition until after this meeting. Roscoe Jacobs seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

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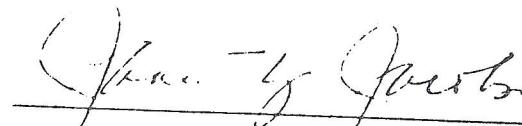
Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina

Jacobs presented a preliminary review of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina petition to the committee. After some discussion, a motion was made by Eddie Maynor to request the Tuscarora Nation to respond to the questions posed in the review in writing to the committee as soon as possible. Roscoe Jacobs seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Other Business

A motion was made by Roscoe Jacobs that Chairman Richardson request Commission Chairman Revels to appoint a representative of each Commission member organization to the Recognition Committee. The motion was seconded by Eddie Maynor and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

  
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Janet Y. Jacobs

Recording Secretary

June 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: NCCIA Recognition Committee

FROM: W. R. Richardson *bill*  
Janet Y. Jacobs *JYJ*

RE: Verification of information provided by David Wilkins  
in regard to the Meherrin Indian Tribe Petition (4/15/86)

Pursuant to your request of June 4, 1986, this is to certify  
that during our visit to the Division of Archives and History on  
June 4, 1986 we found the information provided by David Wilkins  
in regard to the Meherrin Indian Tribe by letter dated 4/15/86  
to be true and accurate.

WRR/JJ/jj

*Note: References or Sources  
of Meherrin Recognition  
Records was not in File.*

NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Commission Meeting

June 19, 1986

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs held its quarterly meeting at its Conference Room, Heart of Raleigh Motel, Raleigh, North Carolina. Secretary Thad Eure officiated the swearing in of John Standingdeer and Richard Welch of the Cherokee Tribe as official members and representatives of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at 1:15 p.m. Chairman Lonnie Revels presented their respective oaths and certificates. The official meeting began at 1:30 p.m. at which time Chairman Lonnie Revels called the meeting to order. Roscoe Jacobs gave the invocation.

Roll Call

Cumberland	James Jacobs	Lumbee	Clinton Thomas
Cumberland	Eddie Maynor	Metrolina	Keith Jacobs
Guilford	James Brewer	Metrolina	Earlene Stacks
Guilford	Lonnie Revels	Waccamaw-Siouan	Perlie Jacobs
Haliwa-Saponi	W. R. Richardson	Waccamaw-Siouan	Roscoe Jacobs
Lumbee	Della Maynor	Cherokee	Richard Welch
Lumbee	James Sampson	Cherokee	John Standingdeer
Speaker of the House Appointee		Arnold Locklear	
Lt. Governor Appointee		Jim Lowry	

Members Absent

Tom Carter  
Gene Jacobs  
Masager T. Richardson

State Officials Present

John C. Brooks, Commissioner Department of Labor	S. Thomas Rhodes, Secretary Department of Natural Resources and Community Development Designee: Joel New
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Grace Rohrer, Secretary Department of Administration Designee: Henry McKoy
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State Officials Absent:

Phillip J. Kirk, Secretary Department of Human Resources	David T. Flaherty, Chairman Employment Security Commission
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N. C. Native American Youth Organization Representatives

Christopher Hunt, Chair Shelley Lowery, Vice-Chair	Present Absent
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Chairman Lonnie Revels declared a quorum was present.

Others Present

A. Bruce Jones	Dorothy Drew
Faye Sprinkle	Barbara Hall
Jerry Berkelhammer	Gordon Hall
Pam Sylvest	Marilyn Foote-Hudson
Mary Jo Cashion	Susan Pierce
Sue Ennis	Thad Eure
Seth Lawless	David Steinbock
Marcus Trethan	Leroy Pierce
Lisa Brewington	Dwight Drew
Ben Jacobs	Bobby Chavis
Patrina Brown	Ames Christopher
Arlene Brown	Kathy Wilson
Carol Eastwood	Greg Richardson
Francis Welch	Ron Hunt
Marvel Saunders	Danny Bell
Gertie Brewington	Wanda Burns-Ramsey

Keith Jacobs made motion that the minutes be accepted as documented.  
Motion was seconded by W. R. Richardson. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

N. C. NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION - CHRISTOPHER HUNT

Chairman Lonnie Revels introduced and informed the Commission that this is Christopher's last meeting. He has served with dedication and distinction; he has our deep appreciation. Christopher Hunt stated that as Chair of the N. C. Native American Youth Organization that his tenure had been most beneficial in experience and planning of many of the various youth activities for the Year of the Native American. He reported his participation of the seminar in Washington, DC, banquet and unity conference. He requested more input from

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the youth for future conferences. He invited everyone to the Youth Unity Conference at Campbell University in special celebration of the Year of the Native American. Chris thanked everyone for a wonderful and successful year.

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT - CLINTON THOMAS

Clinton Thomas referred to the Minutes and Agenda that were dispensed. (Attachment #1). Mr. Thomas gave an update of the activities of the N. C. State Indian Housing Authority Program. They are about to construct 204 units of conventional housing. All the land in the four counties has been purchased with the exception of one. He reported they were in the process of advertising, as required by law for Indian preference contractors.

Motion made by Clinton Thomas from the Housing Committee to request the full Commission's support for \$90,000 under the '87-89 budget expansion. It was seconded by Arnold Locklear. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas noted that regarding the right-of-way in Warren County, that we make a recommendation to the State Indian Housing Authority and their acting Executive Director, that approximately one week from today, if we have not had a response back from the Austin family in Baltimore, MD, executing that agreement, that Bruce and/or Greg follow up on this with a phone call and, if necessary, travel to the Baltimore area to get the paperwork executed.

The other recommendation was that the State Indian Housing Authority proceed and establish a set of by-laws and that an annual meeting date be established as a part of that document.

Another recommendation was that Bruce send out a list of the Indian Housing Authority Board Members and a copy of the creating legislation to all the Commission Members when the minutes of this meeting are dispensed, or at his discretion.

The other item of action is the situation with regard to membership with the State Indian Housing Authority. A copy of the Attorney General's opinion is Attachment #2. Discussion of removing the limiting sentence has been held with Senator David Parnell. Removal of this sentence would make our authority the same and equal under Chapter 157 to all authorities across the state.

On behalf of Chief Richardson and Keith Jacobs, Clint Thomas made a motion that we authorize our Executive Director, Bruce Jones, to draft a bill to take that sentence out of the legislation that creates the State Indian Housing Authority. It was seconded by Mr. James P. Jacobs. Motion carried.

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Mr. Thomas noted that the State Indian Housing Authority would meet in this conference room June 24 at 10:00. Mr. Standingdeer posed the question about Indian contractors--if they were just local. Mr. Thomas reaffirmed that this was statewide.

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT - EDDIE MAYNOR

Mr. Maynor stated that they had two items of business. He turned to Janet Jacobs for a report of the NCCIA Community Services Project for July 1, 1986-June 30, 1987. She briefed everyone verbally of the Attachment #3. The main problem was in the day care centers. Funds are being reduced, therefore, actual enrollment will have to be increased. It was reiterated that we need help from the Department of Human Resources.

Motion was made by Eddie Maynor that a letter on our behalf be sent to Secretary Phil Kirk, letting him know of our concern and seek his support. It was seconded by Roscoe Jacobs. Motion carried.

The next item for the Social Services Committee was a most unusual one. Mrs. Frances Welch, on behalf of her husband, Issac Welch, was seeking support from the Commission. Her husband had been convicted of second degree kidnapping and attempted rape in March 1983 and was sentenced to twelve years. There was discussion as to what alternatives we had in respect as to how we could be supportive.

After discussion, Jim Lowry made the motion to authorize the staff to review the situation because there was enough merit in what had already been said to warrant investigation and determine what alternatives we might have to deal with this. It was seconded by Richard Welch. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE REPORT - W. R. RICHARDSON

Chief W. R. Richardson reported this committee had met on June 4, 1986 and they had reviewed the matter of the Meherrin Tribe, descendants of Sally M. Lewis, be considered for recognition. Minutes are Attachment #4. Ms. Arlene Brown, the great grandchild of Sally M. Lewis was present; gave the history of her heritage and thanked us for having her here today.

Motion was made by Chief Richardson that the Meherrin Tribe descendants of Sally M. Lewis be accepted for recognition. It was seconded by Earlene Stacks. Motion was carried.

Earlene Stacks then asked what the ramifications, if any, does the

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Commission's recognition give. Bruce Jones then said that once the Meherrins were recognized they would be entitled to full rights and services provided to any other Indian tribe through this agency. The biggest benefit would not necessarily be stated by federal or state dollars but just recognition from fellow Indians. It was stipulated without recognition the Meherrins could not be included in the head count of Indians in North Carolina. John Standingdeer pointed out that since the Meherrins were recognized by the Commission that they should be treated equally, money, programs, etc.

Representatives of the Meherrin Tribe stood and were recognized. Earl Pierce gave a jubilant appreciation speech.

Other matters reviewed by the Recognition Committee are set forth in the minutes of the Recognition Committee's meeting. Jerry Berkelhammer was asked to discuss the Cherokees of Hoke County after he and David Steinbock met with them at the request of the Governor. Mr. Berkelhammer noted that the Cherokees of Hoke County had changed the essence of their request from recognition under the procedures to acknowledgement as the Cherokees of Robeson and surrounding counties per General Statute 71A3. The Chair requested David Steinbock of the Attorney General's office, who stated that this issue had to be researched before an opinion could be given with regard to this request. Mr. Steinbock noted that the previous attorney assigned to the Attorney General's office was Jo Ann Sanford and her work for the commission was exemplary. W. R. Richardson moved that we write a letter of appreciation to Jo Ann Sanford on behalf of the Commission. It was seconded by Eddie Maynor. Motion carried.

Chief Richardson stated that the Recognition Committee was weary and small in number. In that vein, Mr. Richardson then made a motion that the Chairman appoint to this committee members from the tribes and organizations that are not presently represented on the Recognition Committee, which would mean eight members versus five. Seconded by Arnold Locklear. Motion carried.

Discussion was resumed concerning the by-laws. It was stated that we have not had any by-laws since our inception in 1971.

Commissioner Brooks stated that the Commission should have by-laws, in addition to the Administrative Procedures Act so that the Commission's operation would be more formalized and consistent. After discussion, Jim Lowry moved the Chairman work with the Executive Committee and authorize the staff to begin preliminary work on by-laws that conform to the present structure and operation of the Commission. It was seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Motion carried. The Chairman requested that David Steinbock work with the staff in developing these by-laws.